

USSN 10/623,241

Response to Office Action dated September 27, 2006

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II. CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A hydrogen-peroxide neutralizing gamma-sterilisable nutrient medium comprising casein soya peptone agar with ~~the addition of~~ between 2 and 10% by weight of sodium thioglycolate, between 5 and 20% by weight of sodium thiosulfate and between 10 and 30% by weight of sodium disulfite in each case with respect to the agar.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~gamma-sterilisable~~ nutrient medium as set forth in claim 1 comprising between 0.1 and 0.25% of sodium pyruvate with respect to the agar.

3. (Currently Amended) A ~~gamma-sterilisable~~ nutrient medium as set forth in claim 1 comprising at least one of bromocresol purple and bromocresol violet as a pH-indicator and between 10 and 50% by weight of polyvinylpyrrolidone with respect to the agar.

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~gamma-sterilisable~~ nutrient medium as set forth in claim 3 wherein the content of polyvinylpyrrolidone with respect to the agar is between 30 and 45% by weight.

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~gamma-sterilisable~~ nutrient medium as set forth in claim 1 comprising bromothymol blue as a pH-indicator and between 10 and 50% by weight of polyvinylpyrrolidone with respect to the agar.

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6. (Currently Amended) A ~~gamma-sterilisable~~ nutrient medium as set forth in claim 5 wherein the content of polyvinylpyrrolidone with respect to the agar is between 30 and 45% by weight.

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~gamma-sterilisable~~ nutrient medium as set forth in claim 1 comprising between 20 and 50% of morpholinopropane sulfonic acid and between 50 and 80% of phosphate buffer with respect to the total amount of buffer.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~gamma-sterilisable~~ nutrient medium as set forth in claim 1 wherein microbial content test agar is used as the agar.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~gamma-sterilisable~~ nutrient medium as set forth in claim 1 comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of betaine, glycine, cystine, proline and asparagine.

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting microorganisms in hydrogen peroxide-bearing air or on a hydrogen peroxide-bearing surface, said method comprising contacting said air or surface with a ~~gamma-sterilisable~~ nutrient medium as set forth in claim 1, and detecting a growth of microorganisms in said medium.

13. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in ~~claim 1~~ claim 12, which is conducted in order to detect

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microorganisms in hydrogen peroxide-bearing air.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in ~~claim 1~~ claim 12, which is conducted in order to detect microorganisms on a hydrogen peroxide-bearing surface.

15. (New) A hydrogen-peroxide neutralizing nutrient medium sterilized by gamma radiation comprising casein soya peptone agar, between 2 and 10% by weight of sodium thioglycolate, between 5 and 20% by weight of sodium thiosulfate and between 10 and 30% by weight of sodium disulfite in each case with respect to the agar.

16. (New) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 15 comprising between 0.1 and 0.25% of sodium pyruvate with respect to the agar.

17. (New) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 15 comprising at least one of bromocresol purple and bromocresol violet as a pH-indicator and between 10 and 50% by weight of polyvinylpyrrolidone with respect to the agar.

18. (New) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 17 wherein the content of polyvinylpyrrolidone with respect to the agar is between 30 and 45% by weight.

19. (New) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 15 comprising bromothymol blue as a pH-indicator and between 10 and 50% by weight of polyvinylpyrrolidone with respect to the agar.

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20. (New) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 19 wherein the content of polyvinylpyrrolidone with respect to the agar is between 30 and 45% by weight.

21. (New) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 15 comprising between 20 and 50% of morpholinopropane sulfonic acid and between 50 and 80% of phosphate buffer with respect to the total amount of buffer.

22. (New) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 15 wherein microbial content test agar is used as the agar.

23. (New) A nutrient medium as set forth in claim 15 comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of betaine, glycine, cystine, proline and asparagine.